

TOWN OF HOUNSFIELD TOWN BOARD MEETING

February 8, 2012

The monthly meeting of the Town of Hounsfield Town Board was called to order by Supervisor Timothy Scee at the Town Hall, 18774 Co. Rt. 66, at 7 PM and the Pledge of Allegiance was said.

Members present were: Supervisor Scee, Councilmen: Stephen Lee, Todd Farrington, Vincent Battista, and Richard Young.

A motion was made by C'man Farrington and 2nd by C'man Lee to approve minutes of the 1/11/12 meeting. All voted aye and the motion was carried.

A motion was made by C'man Lee and 2nd by C'man Farrington to approve minutes of the special meeting held on 1/2/12. All voted aye and the motion was carried.

For correspondence, Supervisor Scee reported that he received a letter from Attorney Dennis Whelpley notifying the Town that the appeal brought by Town of Henderson against Town of Hounsfield over the Galloo Island Wind Farm development has been denied.

Also received was a letter from Neighbors of Watertown regarding grants for affordable housing.

A motion was made by C'man Lee and 2nd by C'man Battista to send a letter of support for Neighbors of Watertown to offer housing grants to eligible Hounsfield residents. All voted aye and the motion was carried.

A letter was also received from Beverly Sterling, on behalf of the Chamber of Commerce, asking if the Town wants an ad in a special edition of the Sackets Harbor Visitor's Guide for the 200th Anniversary of the War of 1812. A motion was made by C'man Battista to spend up to \$500 on an ad in the 2012 special edition of the Sackets Harbor Visitor's Guide and it was 2nd by C'man Young. All voted aye and the motion was carried.

A thank you card was received from the North Country Running Group who spoke at last month's meeting about a running event to take place in September.

Supervisor Scee announced that an annual report of our Water Department was received from NYS Department of Health. It was reported that all health requirements are in proper condition and Mr. Kenney and Mr. Urbanowitz are doing a great job.

The Supervisor's Report was read by the Clerk to the Supervisor: Total receipts \$791,570.30, Total Disbursements were \$130,220.83, Total Cash in Bank \$806,778.40,

Total Investments \$441,904.09. A motion was made by C'man Lee and 2nd by C'man Farrington to accept the Supervisor's report. All voted aye and the motion was carried.

A motion was made by C'man Farrington and 2nd by C'man Lee to pay bills in Abstract #2, vouchers #38-111: General Fund A \$70,836.47, General Fund B \$7,817.24 Highway Fund A \$37,574.66, Highway Fund B \$864.88, Water Dist. 2 \$82,329.31, Water Dist. 1 \$3,530.98, Water Dist. 4 \$102.86, Water Dist. 3 \$560.73, Fire Protection \$62,100.00, Abstract Total \$265,717.13. All voted aye and the motion was carried.

C'man Lee reported that he met with Christine Eggleston and Kevin Smith on the Comprehensive Plan. He suggested that the Town Board create a goal statement for the Planning Board and since some work has been done on comprehensive planning, those documents need to be collected and reviewed. C'man Lee also suggested that an Ad Hoc Committee be formed to work on this. Maybe Andy Nevin from County Planning could help us with what still needs to be done.

C'man Lee reported that the Town crew helped the Village repair a water main break. C'man Lee attended a Water Committee meeting and he had an article on Kris Dimmick for the Hounsfield Pride board.

A motion was made by C'man Lee and 2nd by C'man Farrington for Resolution #12-23 to install posted and limited access signs for the highway building property and garage for insurance purposes. A roll call voted was taken. All Board members voted yes and the motion was carried.

A motion was made by C'man Lee for a resolution to review and sign each fund balance in the Clerk to the Supervisor's 2011 books. A discussion was held. No 2nd was made and this will be brought back next month after Board members have a chance to review these accounts. The Justice books and the Town Clerk's book for

2011 are also available for review in the Town Clerk's office before the next meeting.
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C'man Young gave a Library report.

C'man Battista reported that he attended the Fire Dept. meeting and a total of 12 calls were made in the month of January. The election of officers will take place in April.

C'man Farrington reported that he attended the Recreation Commission meeting. Dan Frechette was nominated to head the summer recreation program and he would like to work with someone on the baseball program. The commission took a field trip to the sewer treatment plant to look at property that may possibly be used for a ball field.

At this time C'man Farrington opened bids for plow equipment and dump box for the new truck: Viking Cives, Harrisville, NY bid \$58,825; Tenco Industries, Lakeville, NY bid \$65,277; and Henderson Truck Equipment-NY bid \$59,375. The Highway Superintendent will review the specs on these bids.

A motion was made by C'man Lee and 2nd by C'man Farrington to accept the low bid of \$58,825 submitted by Viking Cives of Harrisville, NY to purchase plow equipment and dump box for a new Western Star cab and chassis if it meets the specs asked for by the Highway Superintendent. All voted aye and the motion was carried.

The Highway Superintendent gave a work report for January. He announced that after the meeting a tour will be given of the new addition.

The Town Clerk reported her collections for the month of January and that she attended a Water Committee meeting.

A Planning Board report was given.

A Zoning Officer report was given.

A Water District 5 update was given by Bernier, Carr representatives.

A motion was made by C'man Lee and 2nd by C'man Young to authorize Supervisor Scee to sign the documents that enable Bernier, Carr to go to bid for Water District 5

as soon as the DEC easement is finalized for Muskalonge Creek. All ayes. Carried.
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A motion was made by Supervisor Scee and 2nd by C'man Farrington that Board members contact the Supervisor before contacting the town attorney for any Town issue. All voted aye and the motion was carried.

Attorney David Renzi was present and a discussion was held on the Storrs Road property owned by the Town. A motion was then made by C'man Battista and 2nd by C'man Farrington for the Town to minimally maintain the Town owned lake front property on Storrs Road and not to auction or sell it at this time. All voted aye and the motion was carried. Supervisor Scee will send a letter to notify each neighbor.

Attorney Renzi explained that he has information from the DEC that the Town will be issued a temporary easement permit for Water District 5 at Muskalonge Creek for a short period of time. The Highway Superintendent asked if the Board would give him permission to have the highway crew work on that area in preparation for WD 5.

A motion was made by C'man Lee and 2nd by C'man Battista to authorize the Highway Superintendent to have trees and brush cut at the State Boat Launch at Muskalonge Creek, NYS Rt. 180, to prepare for construction of Water Dist. 5, when the temporary easement permit arrives from DEC. All voted aye and the motion was carried.

Supervisor Scee explained that the Board feels that it is important that an Ethics Committee be created. C'man Young had suggested that one representative from each of five surrounding towns form the committee and any complaint have a case number instead of a name. Attorney Renzi offered to send sample templates for forming an ethics committee to Supervisor Scee. This will be tabled for now.

A motion was made by C'man Lee and 2nd by C'man Young for Resolution #12-22 establishing a rate for the Town of Hounsfield Water Dist. 5 Capital Project bookkeeping and records management as \$20 per hour for Mary Ann Yuhas, Clerk to the Supervisor. In a roll call vote all members voted yes and the motion was carried.

Attorney Renzi explained that a complaint was made to the Attorney General's Office that a Town vehicle was clearing snow from the Sulphur Springs United Methodist Church and Mr. Renzi advised the Board to discontinue the practice because it is illegal for the Town to plow private property.

Supervisor Scee made a motion to stop plowing the church driveway on Co. Rt. 63, but after a comment from the Highway Superintendent, he withdrew this motion.

Supervisor Scee made a motion and C'man Farrington 2nd that the Town Board does recognize that plowing of private property is inappropriate. C'men Battista, Farrington, Lee and Supervisor Scee voted yes. C'man Young abstained. Motion carried.

At this time the floor was opened for public comment and a comment was made on the Freedom Of Information Law. Christine Eggleston was present to give a report on the town training session held recently and asked the Board to consider a moratorium on storage units in the Town until the comprehensive plan is completed. The Highway Superintendent asked if it is harassment when he and his employees are followed and photographed and had false charges brought against them? Attorney Renzi answered that it is not considered harassment when you are a public official or employee. Beth Burdick commented that the Sulphur Springs church should build the plowing expense into their budget as other churches do.

This meeting was adjourned at 8:22 PM.

Submitted by,

Diane M. Nier
Town Clerk

